GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6178
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
SMUGGLING OF CARDAMOM
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cardamom from Guatemala is being smuggled into India through Nepal and Calcutta Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases booked during each of the last three years, till date;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this connection;

(e) the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): Sir, the Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have effected seizures of cardamom while being smuggled from Nepal. These cardamom might be of Guatemala origin or of Malaysian or Indonesian origin imported into Nepal under CTD (Customs Transit Document) procedure or diverted into India enroute to Nepal. The details of seizure of cardamom during last three years are as under:-

Year	No.of cases booked	Qty in kgs	Value Rs.in Lakhs	No.of persons arrested	Action taken
2002-2003	116	2616.50	1.51	-	-
2003-2004	248	9589.00	5.42	2	Prosecution launched
2004-2005	182	11513.50	15.64	6	Prosecution launched
2005-2006	5	323.00	0.01	-	-

(f): All Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband items including Cardamom.